

## Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 DRC-01 /129 W

----- 116382

P R 290450Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0382

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 21564

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, VS

SUBJECT: DELTA HIGHPOINT

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

FOLLOWING TEL RECEIVED FROM CAN THO DEC 29 H/W  
REPEATED TO YOU. QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAN THO 0903

REF: CAN THO 0888, 0890, 0894 0895, 0896, 0901

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, VS

SUBJECT: DELTA HIGHPOINT

1. THE INCREASE IN VC/NVA ACTIVITY THAT BEGAN IN THE DELTA  
DECEMBER 18 CONINUES AS OF DECEMBER 29, DESPITE EARLIER MR4  
ESTIMATES THAT ACTIVITY WOULD RETURN TO PREVIOUS LEVELS AROUND  
DECEMBER 25. ALTHOUGH INCIDENTS HAVE DROPPED FROM A HIGH OF 123  
(DECEMBER 19-20) TO 61 DECEMBER 27-28 AND 73 DECEMBER 28-29, THE  
OVERALL INTENSITY OF THE CONFLICT HAS NOT SUBSIDED. WE NOTE THE  
FOLLOWING INCIDENTS AND SITUATIONS:

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A. THE KE SACH (BA XUYEN) DISTRICT CHIEF WAS AMBUSHED AND KILLED DECEMBER 27 AT 2130 HOURS ON ROUTE 4 WITHIN HIS DISTRICT (WR 960767). HE WAS DIRECTING AN OPERATION. THE INCIDENT ALSO CLAIMED TWO RF KILLED AND TEN WOUNDED. RECENT WEEKS HAVE SEEN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS ON THE DISTRICT CHIEFS OF THUA HA AND HOA TU DISTRICTS, BOTH IN BA XUYEN, BOTH TRIES WERE UNSUCCESSFUL.

B. MORE RECENT INFORMATION ON THE DECEMBER 25 AMBUSH IN CHUONG THIEN OF A 21ST DIVISION BATTALION (REF F) REVEALS THAT A UNIT SENT TO THE BATTALION'S AID ALSO TOOK LOSSES. COMBINED CASUALTIES FOR THE TWO GVN UNITS ARE NOW PUT AT 68 KILLED, 89 WOUNDED, AND 41 MISSING.

C. C. THE SITUATION IN TRA ON DISTRICT ON VINH LONG, MENTIONED BRIEFLY IN PARA 1C OF REF 3, NOW SEEMS MORE SERIOUS. THE VINH LONG PROVINCE REPRESENTATIVE HAS REASON TO BELIVE, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT REPORTED TRA ON SUBSECTOR STATISTICS FOR DECEMBER 18-26 (44 INCIDENTS, 22 KIA 68 WIA, 9 WEAPONS LOST, AS OPPOSED TO ONLY 2 VC KIA AND ONE WEAPON CAPTU\*ED) MAY BE UNDERSTATED BY HALF, AS FAR AS GVN LOSSES ARE CONCERNED. HE FURTHER REPORTS THAT THE AREA HAS LOST SEVE\* OUTPOSTS SINCE DECEMBER 18. ENEMY FORCES REPORTEDLY INCLUDE TWO BATTALIONS OF THE D-3 REGIMENT, WHICH OPERATES NORMALLY IN THE VINH LONG-VKINH BINH BORDER AREA.

2. MR4 CHIEF \*F STAFF BG CHUONG DZENH QUAY PREDICTED DECEMBER 28 THE HIGHPOINT WOULD PETER OUT BY JANUAR 1. HE CONTINUES TO CHARACTERIZE THE PRESENT UPSURGE AS PART OF A REGULAR AND PRE-DICTABLE PATTERN OF ENEMY ACTIVITY PRESENTING NO SERIOUS DANGERS TO THE OVER ALL GVN POSITION IN THE DELTA. WRIGHT UNQTE MARTIN

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## Message Attributes

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